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army numbered four hundred thousand men at the conclusion of peace (p. 167).

Noske quotes many of the attacks against his policies and denounces his opponents with extreme bitterness (p. 204). He exposes with equal fearlessness the corruption within the Social Democratic party. His analysis of the economic collapse of Germany is masterly. In his exposure of the conditions in the government factories of Kiel and Spandau, he shows the effects of the doctrine of socialization upon the German proletariat.

As a contribution to the history of the German revolution, the book of Gustav Noske is of immense value. It is a convincing account of the progress of the revolution in the face of attacks by Independents and Spartacans as well as by monarchists and reactionaries. The tragedy revealed by this memoir, is that the socialist deputy Noske believed in the *rocher de bronze* of Prussian militarism, but was deceived in the end by the very generals whom he had saved from the mob.

RALPH HASWELL LUTZ.

*History of South Africa from 1873 to 1884: Twelve Eventful Years.*

By GEORGE MCCALL THEAL, Litt.D., LL.D. In two volumes. (London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1919. Pp. xvi, 352; xi, 312. 17s.)

THE labors of the indefatigable chronicler of South Africa have now reached a period "within the memory of men now living". The latest volumes, covering the period from 1873 to 1884, "twelve eventful years", as the subtitle announces, "with continuation of the history of Galekaland, Tembuland, Pondoland, and Bethsuanaland until the annexation of those territories to the Cape Colony, and of Zululand until its annexation to Natal", bring his monumental work with its extraordinary collection of series A, B, C, and now D, with their many editions and reissues to series D, volumes 10 and 11, the whole forming a veritable library in themselves. It is needless to say that all this represents an extraordinary amount of industry on the part of their author, and that it provides an immense mass of material relating to the history of South Africa. But it is only fair to say that in some important particulars these latest volumes, like their predecessors, with all their value, leave something to be desired as history. They are, in effect, rather chronicles than history in the modern sense. They have neither foot-notes nor references, and one searches in vain for the authorities for what are, especially in these present volumes, matters of high controversy, both political and historical. That lack is not greatly offset by the inclusion of tables of statistics, like those on the Revenue of Natal (II. 230-231), with similar data scattered through the books. For, especially in the years covered by these vol-

umes, there is a mass of material, histories, biographies, memoirs, state papers, and the like, to which undoubtedly Mr. Theal had access, and which he used for his narrative, but of which he gives no hint in his pages.

And that, in so controversial a period as the epoch of the Zulu War and the Boer War of 1880, is a distinct misfortune. Mr. Theal tells the story of Rorke's Drift, of Laing's Nek, and Majuba Hill, with the negotiations which preceded and followed, the annexation of territory, the war for independence and what came of it, of Mr. Gladstone's "surrender", clearly and intelligibly, if not forcefully. It is a fascinating chapter of history. Doubtless, in the main, things happened as he describes them. He does not seem to have added much that is new to the story or to our knowledge of the subject. But there remains a suspicion that while this is the truth, and perhaps nothing but the truth, it is not—possibly at this time it could not be—the whole truth. For truth in this period of South African history is not, so far as one can judge, entirely drawn up from the bottom of the well. And were it known, it might be highly embarrassing at such a time as this to present it without some decent garb. No one could imagine Mr. Theal suppressing any facts relevant to his story. His work has always been transparently honest, conscientious, and informed with a painstaking spirit of fairness to all sides in the many controversies which fill especially the nineteenth century.

And when all is said and done, he deserves much of his countrymen. He introduced South Africa to the community of historical nations. He blazed a broad trail through what was before his time not much more than a wilderness. It may remain for later comers to make highways and cross-roads, to divide the land into cultivated fields, to bring forth unsuspected treasures from its soil. But that is not the task of the pioneer. And no one, not Garneau, nor Bourinot, nor the historians of Australasia, has done more to bring his land within the circle of historical interest than Theal. With these volumes his work concludes. There is scarcely anywhere a more touching account of a historian's last hours than is afforded by the note at the end of these volumes. It is reminiscent of a similar passage in the life of Green. Any review of this his last, as well as his latest, work would not be complete without some tribute to one who for half a century had devoted a great part of his energy and time to such a task as his. And one may well echo the sentiment of the Senate of the University of South Africa and share the hope of those who "look forward with confidence to the establishment of a South Africa school of historians who must always regard him as their founder". From them we may look forward also to the next chapter of this history, the Boer War, whose complexities may task even the judicial impartiality of the followers of Theal, but whose history is worthy of the best efforts of such a school.

WILBUR C. ABBOTT.